

Meeting Summary for ID/DD Member Call

Jan 03, 2024 11:49:52 Eastern Time (US and Canada) ID: 823 1336 5092

Quick recap

Debbie led a discussion about raising the average wage for direct support professionals to \$18 an hour. She addressed concerns about the use of funds for wages amidst other cost increases, reassuring providers that all components of the reimbursement rate have increased by the same percentage. She also reminded providers to include the new maximum rates in their billing and proposed two upcoming meetings to discuss major issues.

Summary

Wage Increase and Transportation Survey Discussion

Debbie led the Hca. Dd member call, acknowledging their cold but wishing everyone a happy holiday season. They shared updates in the chat before Christmas and discussed the flexibility of waiver rate increases, emphasizing the goal to increase the average wage for direct support professionals to \$18 an hour and eventually \$19 an hour. Debbie addressed concerns about utilizing these funds for wages amidst other cost increases, assuring providers that all components of the reimbursement rate have increased by the same percentage, allowing room for wage increases for other staff. They reminded providers to ensure the new maximum rates are included in their billing and encouraged providers who offer non-medical transportation to complete a cost data survey by January 5th.

Feedback, Meetings, and Reporting Periods

Debbie discussed the feedback process for draft rules, which the team has two weeks to review and provide comments on any major concerns. They also mentioned that some concerns have already been raised by the day array committee. Debbie then proposed two upcoming meetings, one with the Department of Health to discuss ICF surveys and another with the director of health to discuss major issues. They encouraged team members to share any issues or concerns to be discussed in these meetings. Additionally, Debbie reminded the team about the reporting period for Provider Relief Funds, which opened on January 1st, and confirmed that all MUI reports are available in the incident tracking system for the annual reports due by the end of January.

Document Link, Legal Rights Ohio, PRN Medication Dosing

pete pointed out a humorous issue with a document link leading to 'elfsight.cdn.com'. Debbie confirmed the document's existence and its relevance to department development disabilities. Dan brought up a potential issue regarding a visit from Legal Rights Ohio, who are not a survey agency but want to tour the facility. They also raised concerns about another facility being cited for PRN medication dosing, a practice Debbie confirmed has been discussed for months. They mentioned that they had met with CMS to discuss this issue and potential exceptions to it.

Medication Use in Crisis: Tension and Alternatives

The team discussed concerns about the use of medication for behavior support, particularly in crisis situations. They highlighted the tension between state licensure rules and federal guidance from CMS, with the latter often taking precedence. The team expressed particular concern over the use of medication for emergency interventions versus therapeutic interventions, and the potential for these to be classified as chemical restraints. They also noted ongoing efforts to find alternatives and address these challenges.

Ohio Legal Rights, Covid Reporting, and Outbreak Confusion

The team discussed various issues and concerns. They talked about the ongoing challenges and the constant emergence of new issues. Gina raised a concern about the legal rights in Ohio and how providers can obtain orders. Debbie added that this issue would be discussed further in their upcoming meeting. Amy clarified that as long as there is physician consent for every dose given, it is acceptable. Gina also expressed frustration about the Covid reporting requirements to the Health Department. Debbie confirmed that while the Covid orders are gone, healthcare providers still have a responsibility to report cases of communicable diseases. Lastly, a team member shared that they had a minor outbreak and had to report it to the county, but there was confusion about whether they also had to report influenza cases.

Next steps

Providers should review the waiver rate increase document and decide how to utilize the funds.

Providers should ensure they are billing at the new maximum rates.

Providers who do non-medical transportation should complete the cost data survey by January 5th.

Providers should review the draft rule changes and submit any comments by the end of January.

Debbie will discuss the issue of PRN medications for behaviors with the Department of Health tomorrow.